

**Ordinances 11/12-15**

**AN ORDINANCE ADDING A NEW SECTION, CHAPTER 9,  
ARTICLE 11, SECTION 9-11.8 ENTITLED, "STUDENT DRESS  
POLICY" OF THE POLICIES OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL  
BOARD—SECOND READING**

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the School Board of the City of Suffolk, Virginia that Chapter 9, Article 11, Section 9-11.8, entitled "Student Dress Policy" of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Section 9-11.8 Statement of School Board Policy.** — Student attire impacts the teaching and learning environment. It can either promote a more effective educational environment or it can disrupt the educational climate and process. In order to ensure that our students' education is conducted in an environment where safety risks, disruptions, and distractions are minimized, all students enrolled in Suffolk Public Schools shall adhere to dress regulation promulgated by the School Superintendent.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that all phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, subsections, sections and chapters of the School Board's Policy Manual not amended or repealed shall remain in full force and effect.

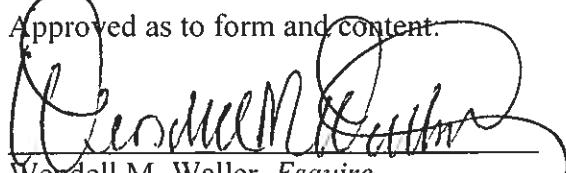
FIRST READING: February 9, 2012

SECOND READING: \_\_\_\_\_

EFFECTIVE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TESTE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK

Approved as to form and content.



Wendell M. Waller, Esquire  
School Board Attorney

## **Student Dress Regulations**

**Section 6-9.2 An appropriate environment for learning required; appropriate dress required; prohibited clothing.** — ~~A student's dress and appearance shall not be such that it causes disruption, distracts others from the educational process or creates a health or safety problem. Students must comply with specific building dress regulations and of which students will be given prior notice.~~ A. One of the fundamental purposes of school is to provide an appropriate environment for learning. A student's dress and appearance shall not be such that it causes disruption, distracts others from the educational process or poses a health or safety concern. Regulations for student dress are designed to promote a standard of appearance that complements the learning environment.

B. All students are required to wear dress appropriate to the occasion and to avoid wearing attire that can have an adverse impact on the teaching and learning environment. In order to ensure that the education of students enrolled in Suffolk Public Schools is conducted in an environment where safety risks, disruptions, and distractions are minimized, all students will adhere to the following minimal standards of dress.

C. The following clothing is expressly prohibited and shall not be worn by students enrolled in any Suffolk Public School while in the classroom or participating in school sponsored activities:

1. Sexually suggestive or revealing attire, which shall include any article of clothing that does not cover the midriff, back, or shoulders, reveals cleavage, or exposes undergarments.
2. Clothes made of spandex.
3. Clothes having rips or tears above the knees.
4. "Sagging" pants and shorts not securely fastened around the waist.
5. Skirts, dresses, and shorts that rise above the fingertips when the arms are stretched downward.
6. Any article of clothing that advertises alcohol, or an illegal substance, depicts lewd graphics, displays offensive or obscene language, promotes violence or is gang-related.
7. Clothing with slogans or words across the buttocks.
8. Head coverings unless worn for religious or medical reasons.
9. Flip flops, open toed shoes, slippers, and roller shoes (heelys).
10. Any accessory that advertises alcohol, or an illegal substance, depicts lewd graphics, displays offensive or obscene language, promotes violence or is gang-related.
11. Sunglasses, wallet chains, and necklaces that hang below the sternum.
12. Sleepwear.
13. Any clothing worn by a student that causes a substantial disruption and/or substantially distracts others from the educational process, or poses a serious

health or safety concern. In order for clothing to be prohibited under this subpart, the substantial disruption and/or distraction, or serious health concern caused by student clothing, must be sufficiently documented in writing by the building principal or his or her designee, and the documentation must set forth the time, date, location, and the specifics of the substantial disruption and/or distraction, or serious health concern caused by student clothing.